

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic MARGARET CROWNER'S LUNCH ROOM

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 954 W. Benning Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Galesville ☐ vicinity of congressional district

state MD county Anne Arundel

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Storage

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Harriett Hull et al.

street & number Box 62 telephone no.: 798-1270

city, town Galesville state and zip code MD 20765

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. A.A.Co. Registry of Deeds liber 2501

street & number folio 250

city, town Annapolis state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Md. Historical Sites Survey

date ☐ federal ☒ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Md. Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD

7. Description

Survey No. AA-918

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

It is hard to guess what this quaint little building, located in the heart of Galesville's black community, used to be. It has an institutional rather than residential look about it. No ~~restaurant~~ sign gives a clue as to its ~~former~~ use. It is maintained in a neat and clean manner, as is the entire street. Though an extremely modest neighborhood, without benefit of indoor plumbing, there is a pride of place in Galesville's W. Benning Road black community.

This curious building used to be Margaret Crowner's Lunch Room. It is a frame structure, 36'2" x 12'2", with a 14'x20' kitchen el at the right rear. It faces SW, is one story tall, and has a gable roof whose ridge runs the length of the building. The rear el roof is part cross gable and part shed-style. The front entrance is at the center of the 36' wide SW elevation. There are three 6-over-6 sash windows on either side of the entry door; the door itself is sheltered by a small cross-gable roof-projection. The two windows in the gable ends of the main block and the two windows in the rear of the el have 2-over-2 sashes.

The entire building is sheathed in horizontal ^{German}~~weatherboard~~ siding and is raised two feet off the ground on cinder block piers. A single narrow brick chimney is exterior to the rear el wall.

The interior consists of two rooms: the front room with tables, chairs and counter service for customers occupies the full 36'2"x12'2" main block; the el room, separated by a door and a pass-through counter-window, serves as the restaurant-kitchen.

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-918

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Lunch Room was built by Benjamin and Margaret Crowner in 1941, on land adjacent to the front yard of their home (the Benjamin Crowner House, 1919, AA-917).

Margaret operated the restaurant for 21 years until her death at 78 in 1962.

Benjamin died the same year. The customers were mainly employees of the local oyster packing companies, the Woodfield Fish & Oyster Co. and the Benning Oyster Co.

The Lunch Room has been closed since Margaret's death. It is used for storage by her son James who occupies the family house next door.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AA-918

Interviews: Harriett (Crown) Hull (798-1270), James Crown, Margaret Ann (Crown) Watkins, Charles Mouldon.

"Discovering Our School Community" by Grade V, 1952-1953, Galesville Elementary Sch Novene O. Holt, Teaching Principal, S.V. Jones, Supervisor, J.S. Pright, Jr.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Deale 1957; photorevised 1970.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Wetherill, Volunteer

organization Anne Arundel Co. Committee/MHT

date 5/86

street & number P.O. Box 1573

telephone _____

city or town Annapolis

state MD 21404

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



Deale, MD.
USGS 7.5 Minute Series
Scale 1:24,000
1954; photorevised 1970

AA-918
Margaret Crowner's Lunch Room
954 W. Benning Road
Galesville.



AA-918

Margaret Crowner's Lunch Room

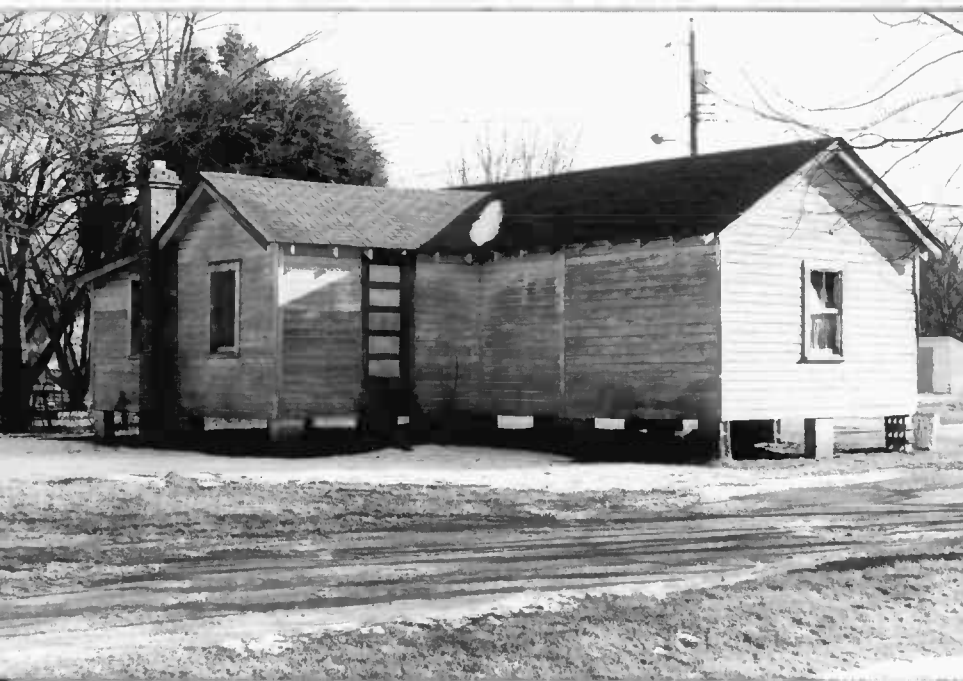
A.A.Co., Md

S. Wetherill, 2/85

~~Roll # 6~~

~~FRAME 36~~

facade, SW elevation



AA-918

(REAR OF) CROWNER'S LUNCH ROOM

A.A.Co., Md.

~~ROLL # 5~~

~~FRAME 6~~

S. Wetherill, 2/85

North corner



AA. 918

Margaret Crowner's Lunch Room

AA. Co, MD.

S. Wetherill ; 2/85

South corner

~~ROLL # 6~~

~~FRAME 33~~



CHAS. MOULTON, a W. Benning Rd.
resident.

~~Roll # 5~~
~~FRAME 28~~

AA-918
Margaret Crowner's Lunch
Room

A. A. Co., MD.
S. Wetherill, 2/85
detail of facade